

Customs; Dept of, Ottawa

[John Mc Dougall, Commissioner]

July 1915-Jan. 1916

July 5th, 1915

Hon. John Macdougall,
Deputy Minister of Customs,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

Word has been sent to us that friends in Cleveland, Ohio, are presenting to the University Base Hospital a gift of one motor truck and one White Ambulance. They will come to Toronto addressed to Dr. C. W. Clarke, Toronto General Hospital, for the University Base Hospital. I hope that you will be able to allow them to come in free of duty, as they are to be used entirely for war purposes, wherever the University Base Hospital is placed on the Continent. This Hospital is being maintained by the Government at Ottawa, and we merely provide additional equipment. These ambulances are a part of that equipment.

Yours sincerely,

President.

July 8th, 1915

John McDougald, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of the President I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. and wish to thank you for your kindness in complying with our request regarding the admission of a motor truck and a white ambulance for our University Base Hospital.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

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October 14th, 1915

J. Maddougall, Esq., C.M.G.,

Deputy Minister of Customs,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

The Librarian of the University has received word from Messrs. H. Sotheran and Company, Booksellers of London, that they have been officially authorised to import German scientific periodicals for use in University libraries and public institutions. Would you kindly let me know whether the Department of Customs would deter the importation of such German periodicals through an authorised source from Britain for use in the Library of the University of Toronto ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

October 19th, 1915

Hon. J. McDougald, C.M.G.,
Department of Customs,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your letter stating that the
Department of Customs has no objection to the Library
of the University of Toronto importing direct from Messrs.
H. Sotheran and Company, London, German scientific periodicals
which this firm has been permitted to import for use in
University Libraries and public institutions.

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 22nd, 1915

Hon. J. McDougall,

Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

My dear Sir:

Will you allow me to draw your attention to some apparent inconsistencies that are causing us difficulty in getting some of our university material through the customs? I enclose copies of cards with a statement of their origin and use. As you will observe they are absolutely for scientific purposes and in our judgment should come under the heading of books.

Also, we have undertaken to furnish the Militia Department with an antitetanus serum. We are also supplying the various Provinces of the Dominion with other sera and vaccine for the prevention and cure of diphtheria, rabies, smallpox, etc. These we are supplying at cost. We find that the wooden containers, vials and hypodermic syringes would under the present tariff be admitted free if the vials contained serum, but under present conditions when imported empty for the purpose of distributing these sera manufactured in our laboratories to be distributed throughout the Dominion and to be supplied to the Militia Authorities the duty is levied upon them.

It seems to us probable that when your attention is drawn to these discrepancies you will have the kindness to order that these articles be allowed in free.

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 20, 1915.

1. Card used in the Library of the Department of Botany, issued by Professor Tilden of the University of Minnesota, to enable the Department to make ready reference on the subject of Algae, on which Professor Tilden is writing special monographs.
2. Card used in the Library of the Department of Biology, issued by the Concilium Bibliographicum of Zurich, for similar purposes.

Section 174 of the Tariff reads as follows,-

"Books printed.....by any association for the promotion of science or letters,.....and not for the purpose of trade or sale,.....Free."

If to the word "books" the Department could justify "pamphlets and cards" being added, or that the word "books" is supposed to cover "pamphlets and cards", as being purely for scientific work, it would meet our requirements, as they really form a catalogue of reference.

3. Wooden boxes for shipping vials containing serums and hypodermic syringes.
4. Vials for containing serums.
5. Cardboard linings for the protection of syringes and vials from breakage.

Section 676 of the Tariff reads,-

"Containers, capillary tubes,.....boxes, when imported by manufacturers of vaccine points.....Free".

Section 206 of the Tariff reads,-

"Vaccine and ivory vaccine points, ... bacteriological products or serum for subcutaneous injections.....Free".

It appears a curious anomaly that the containers for vaccine should be admitted free and the containers for the serums for hypodermic

injection should pay duty. The products carried in the containers are to be used for the same object, the prevention of disease.

The wooden containers, vials and cardboard linings would, under the Tariff, be admitted free if the vials contained serum, but under present conditions, when imported empty, for the purpose of distributing serums manufactured in this country, duty is levied on them. If the serum is manufactured in Canada and is sent to the United States and there put into vials and returned to Canada, the wooden boxes, vials and cardboard linings would be admitted free.

A large proportion of the products of the Antitoxin Laboratory is supplied to the Department of Militia and the Red Cross Society, both for use in Canada and for export, and in these cases rebates on the duty paid are allowed by the Department of Customs.

January 27th, 1915

Hon. John MacDougall,

Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

Recently you were good enough to reply favourably to a letter of mine regarding the free entry into Canada of German books through Messrs. Sotheran And Co., 140 Strand, London, which firm has a license from the British Board of Trade to import books of a scientific or philosophical character.

Difficulties have been experienced by members of the staff with the Post Office officials who state that they have no instructions to allow such books to enter, and that they are unaware that Sotheran & Co. have the license referred to. May I ask you to be good enough to have the necessary instructions forwarded to the Post Office officials in order that your decision in this matter may be carried into effect?

The license of the British Board of Trade to Sotheran & Co. reads as follows:

"Now the Board of Trade, on behalf of his Majesty, do hereby authorise and permit the said Henry Sotheran & Co. to purchase, import and contract the carriage for any quantity of Philosophical, Scientific, Technical and Educational books and Official Publications of the Imperial German Government, printed in German, and to take delivery of the same in the United Kingdom."

Yours sincerely,

President.

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